



News From

The Monroe County Council of Governments

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COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS RELEASES INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION REPORT

The Monroe County Council of Governments (COG) today released its Intermunicipal Cooperation Report for 2001. This past spring, the COG conducted a survey of municipalities in Monroe County on intergovernmental cooperative efforts. These survey results and existing Monroe County documentation were used as the basis for the report released today.

"Through our survey and available county data, the Council of Governments has reported existing areas of cooperation and, more importantly, identified areas that hold future opportunities for cooperative agreements," said COG Chairman and Pittsford Supervisor Bill Carpenter. "The report gives us a map of current success and offers a blueprint for areas of collaboration that will allow municipalities to find ways to better serve our individual residents and the county as a whole."

Area municipalities participated in the survey and showed that there are currently significant levels of cooperation among them, Monroe County, other governments, agencies and districts. Survey respondents reported 385 agreements for 45 different services and functions.

Partnerships exist among all levels of government and public agencies including: County, City, Towns, Villages, School Districts, Fire and Ambulance districts, and the State of New York. The report further showed that existing areas of cooperation include maintenance of highways, parks, sharing of equipment, fuel and other commodity purchases and storage, mutual aid for public safety services, recreation programming, Civil Service, and numerous other administrative and direct service areas.

The report concluded that local governments are continually looking for opportunities for further cooperation and consolidation of services to improve service delivery and reduce costs. As a result of this initial report the COG will periodically update this information to reflect new initiatives for intergovernmental cooperation and agreement.

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“Chairman Carpenter and the entire Council of Governments should be commended for this report,” said County Executive Jack Doyle. “Monroe County has always had a reputation of cooperation among its municipalities and this report shows that this spirit extends not just between the county and its municipalities but between all layers of government. I look forward to future reports and the identification of new ways we can enhance local government through enhanced cooperative efforts.”

As a result of this report, the COG will actively seek out ways to foster greater cooperation among municipalities to enhance service and attain greater efficiency in government.

The report indicated the following service areas as candidates for further cooperation in the future:

- Property assessment
- Emergency rental of equipment
- Utility bulk purchase
- Building/fire inspection
- Computer technology
- Lawn mowing in rights-of-way
- Web site development
- Pooled Workman's Compensation
- HVAC equipment standards
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Fire hydrant maintenance
- Sewage pump station maintenance
- Sewer equipment sharing

The Council of Governments model is used throughout the United States, particularly in the States of California and Florida and in some areas of New England. Successful councils are voluntary organizations, which operate at the level of collaboration and facilitate traditional local autonomy versus a new mandated layer of regional government.

Monroe County's COG membership is comprised of the County Executive and the chief elected officials from the county's towns, villages and city.

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